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AND EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS

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July 31, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

The American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit scientific professional society. We have approximately 5000 members worldwide who are research and clinical scientists working to improve human health through improved therapeutics. The Society's main functions are scientific communication and education which we accomplish through publishing journals, holding scientific meetings and conducting outreach activities.

The new regulations on faxing of documents commercial in nature will pose an undue burden, both financial and workload, on the Society since we routinely fax meeting registration forms, dues notices, and journal invoices to individuals **who request them** by phone. Despite our explaining that this is a government regulation, the Society is going to get the reputation for being bureaucratic and unhelpful. Requiring written permission from our members who have already given us their fax numbers in their annual renewals is a time-consuming, wasteful process that is detrimental to good business practice, but one that can be done. However, often these people requesting information are not members of the Society but are people who have found out at the last minute that there is a meeting they would like to attend and requesting the registration form by fax is the only way they will get it in time to attend. The new interpretation of the regulations will penalize both the scientist and the Society.

While we are sympathetic to the need to decrease the number of junk faxes that come unsolicited, I would repeat that we only fax these documents **upon request**. It seems unduly bureaucratic and wasteful of paper to require something in writing and to say that a phone request is not acceptable.

ASPET urges the FCC at the very minimum to reconsider their definition of what an acceptable request for commerce related faxes might be and to allow verbal requests for information over the phone. An even more acceptable consideration would be to reinstate the concept of "established business relationship."

Thank you.

Sincerely,
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